

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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SUBJECT: UN MEMORIAL CEMETERY IN KOREA

REF: (A) SEOUL 5798; (B) USUN 2190; (C) USUN 2332;
(D) USUN 2262

SUMMARY: THIS CABLE REQUESTS VIEWS OF DEPARTMENT
AND USUN REGARDING CONTRIBUTION BY MEMBERS OF UN
CEMETERY TO 1974 CEMETERY BUDGET. END SUMMARY.

1. CONFUSION SURFACED AT SEPTEMBER 10 SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING BECAUSE OF ROK POSITION ON ONE HAND THAT CON-
TRIBUTIONS FOR 1974 NOT REQUIRED AND ANNOUNCED INTENTION BY
SOME MEMBERS TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION PURSUANT TO COMMIT-
MENT MADE IN NEW YORK. IN INTEREST OF FOLLOWING COMMON
PRACTICE, MEMBERS AGREED TO SEEK VIEWS OF HOME
GOVERNMENTS.

2. PROBLEM SEEMS TO HAVE ARISEN FROM FACT THAT WHILE
US AND OTHER MEMBERS IN NEW YORK,
ACTING ON BASIS OF PROPOSALS MADE LATE 1974, WERE AGREEING
TO ACCEPTANCE OF OBLIGATION TO PAY FOR CALENDAR
YEARS 1974 AND 1975 (REFTEL B), ROKG, WHICH
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SEEKS TO AVOID CONTROVERSY OVER ISSUE, ANNOUNCED

IN SEOUL THAT IT WOULD PAY ALL 1974 COSTS WITHOUT EXPECTATION OF REIMBURSEMENT. KOREAN POSITION WAS CONFIRMED ONCE AGAIN SEPTEMBER 10 BY DIRECTOR OF MOFA IO BUREAU HAN, WHO SAID ROK WOULD ACCEPT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1974 BUT DID NOT IN FACT COUNT ON REIMBURSEMENT. ACCORDING TO DUTCH, HOWEVER, MEMBERS IN JULY 2 NEW YORK MEETING (REF C), WHICH WAS NOT ATTENDED BY ROK, AGREED THAT THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE FOR 1974.

3. RECORDS OF MEMBERS HERE INDICATE THAT ROK DECISION TO PAY WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT WAS NOT CLEARLY COMMUNICATED TO NEW YORK AND THAT JULY 2 DECISION IN NEW YORK WAS NOT REPORTED TO MEMEBERS HERE. THIS APPARENTLY DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING FROM START OVER WHERE AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION (AS OPPOSED TO SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS) WOULD BE DETERMINED. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT ONLY THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT WAS TO BE DECIDED IN NEW YORK AND THT ACTUAL BUDGET LEVEL AND DISPOSITION OF FIRST YEAR COSTS WOULD BE RESOLVED IN SEOUL. HOWEVER, SINCE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE IN NEW YORK, SOME MEMBERS NOW PREFER TO GO ALONG WITH IT.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT, GIVEN ROK WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR 1974, US SHOULD TAKE POSITION THAT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER MEMBERS ARE TO BEGIN IN 1975. IF OTHER MEMBERS BELIEVE COMMISSION SHOULD BE GUIDED BY NEW YORK DECISION, REQUEST DEPT VIEWS AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD ACCEDE. SUM INVOLVED IS APPROXIMATELY \$8,931 FOR 1974.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE REGARDING 1974 CONTRIBUTION. ALSO REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE REGARDING STATEMENT WE SHOULD MAKE ON FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS (REF D).
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